

ER 7-8412/a

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FEB 18 1956

Honorable James E. Murray
 Chairman
 Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
 United States Senate
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Murray:

This letter is in reply to your inquiry of 23 January 1956 regarding the production of titanium metal in the USSR and its satellites.

Although the USSR has a few deposits of rutile, the only commercially important titanium mineral used for making titanium metal, it has extensive deposits of ilmenite, a very low-grade source of titanium, in the Ural area. Other large ilmenite deposits have been discovered near Kirovsk on the Kola Peninsula and near Mariupol' in the Southern Ukraine. The Ural deposits are reported to contain 400 million tons of available ore. No important titanium deposits are known to have been discovered in any of its satellites.

For several decades, titanium has been used by the Soviets in the manufacture of stainless steel, but only since 1952 has the Soviet press published articles on research in the development and use of titanium metal. It is quite likely that the Soviets have engaged in extensive titanium metal research and are using titanium as a high-speed, high-temperature metal. A recent United States press report states that the Soviets are producing up to 95,000 tons of titanium annually, but we have no information which would confirm this figure.

Although there is some indication of research on titanium metal being conducted in the European satellites, I regret to say that the unclassified information we have on this subject is very limited.

We shall keep your interest in Soviet titanium developments in mind and, in the event new information becomes available, your office will be advised.

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Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
 Director

M/RR/RR: [redacted] vs/2031 (31 Jan 56)
 Rewritten: OAD/RR/ [redacted] 2817 (14 Feb 56)
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